

AIR FOUGH
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S E C R E T

RIBAT

EICHMANN, A.

[NFVA] 1394

24 MAY 1960

TO:

FROM:

SUBJ: CAPTURE OF ADOLF EICHMANN

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3D2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2005

1. On 23 May 1960 the Prime Minister announced to the Knesset that Adolf EICHMANN had been arrested, and would stand trial in Israel. Ben-Gurion was accompanied by the chief of the security services, and publically noted that it was to the security services that the credit for the capture was due.

2. On 24 May [] said that the security services involved were primarily [] and to a much lesser extent the service of []. [] said that they were national heroes, and not for just a week. He noted that the phone had not stopped ringing once since the announcement, what with all the calls of congratulation. Meyer WEIZMANN, who has not always been completely co-operative, called to say that in the future Weizmann Institute would co-operate in any way possible with the security services. Members of the Knesset after the announcement by the Prime Minister had been wildly enthusiastic in their praise of the security services.

3. [] did not furnish any details of the circumstances surrounding EICHMANN's capture other than the following: [] had been working on the case for six months, and EICHMANN has been in [] custody for 144 days. The police will take him over in two days (i.e., on 26 May), [] is responsible at his, despite the fact that [] is not set up for such duties. [] is afraid of suicide as well as escape. He noted that, if EICHMANN succeeded in either course, the end of [] would have no recourse but to kill himself. He added that the chief of [] had not slept at all, for the past several nights, worrying about EICHMANN.

4. Apparently EICHMANN was kidnapped by [] and will be turned over to the police. The police will then take him to trial, and in reply to the obvious defense charge that the arrest was illegal, will claim that the arrest was perfectly legal, only perhaps the way he got to the place where arrested was legal, but that is not the police's problem, since it is the police who brought him there. [] said that the court would accept this, since it is obvious EICHMANN would not act of his own free will, and since public opinion is

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so very strong in this case.

5. [] noted that both [] and [] had worked on the case of EICHMANN, and that both would probably be especially happy to hear the news.

6. It is suggested that some sort of congratulation is due from HQS -- perhaps a letter from [] to [] would be appropriate, or possibly a letter from [] to [] or [] although this latter might short-change [] who would feel that [] was being neglected.

[]

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